



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney's Office
District of Delaware*

*Nemours Building
1007 Orange Street, Suite 700*

*P.O. Box 2046
Wilmington, Delaware 19899-2046*

*(302) 573-6277
FAX (302)
573-6220
TTY (302)-573-6274
Toll Free 888-293-*

8162

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DAVID C. WEISS
Acting United States Attorney
(302) 573-6277

PRESS RELEASE

**Wilmington Man Pleads Guilty to
Transportation of Child Pornography**

James C. Peterson, age 36, of Wilmington, Delaware, pled guilty yesterday to transportation of child pornography, in violation of federal law. David C. Weiss, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, announced the guilty plea following a hearing in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware.

Peterson, who will be sentenced on April 24, 2009 by United States District Judge Sue L. Robinson, faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison and a maximum sentence of twenty years in prison. Peterson also faces a term of supervised release following his prison sentence of five years to life, and will be required to register as a sex offender in any jurisdiction in which he lives, works, or attends school. Peterson will remain detained pending sentencing.

According to statements made at today's hearing and documents filed in court, Peterson came to the attention of various law enforcement agencies, including the Delaware State Police and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, as he traded child pornography online. On June 5, 2008, the Delaware State Police conducted a search of Peterson's residence that yielded computers and digital media

found to contain more than 16,000 still images and 140 videos of child pornography. The Delaware State Police also completed a search of Peterson's AOL accounts, which revealed that he had traded child pornography via email with approximately 40 different individuals.

Following his arrest, Peterson told law enforcement officers that they would find numerous images of child pornography on his computer, which he downloaded to a folder labeled "VYB." He explained that this was an abbreviation for "very young boys." Peterson estimated that the youngest child depicted in his collection was about two years old.

Following the plea hearing, Acting United States Attorney David C. Weiss stated, "Prolific traders of hardcore child pornography like Mr. Peterson should expect that they will come to the attention of law enforcement agencies that are working together to identify them. Once identified, they will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

This case was investigated by the High Technology Crimes Unit of the Delaware State Police and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement. For further information, please contact Assistant United States Attorney Edward J. McAndrew at 302-573-6277, ext. 130.